MAY 1973

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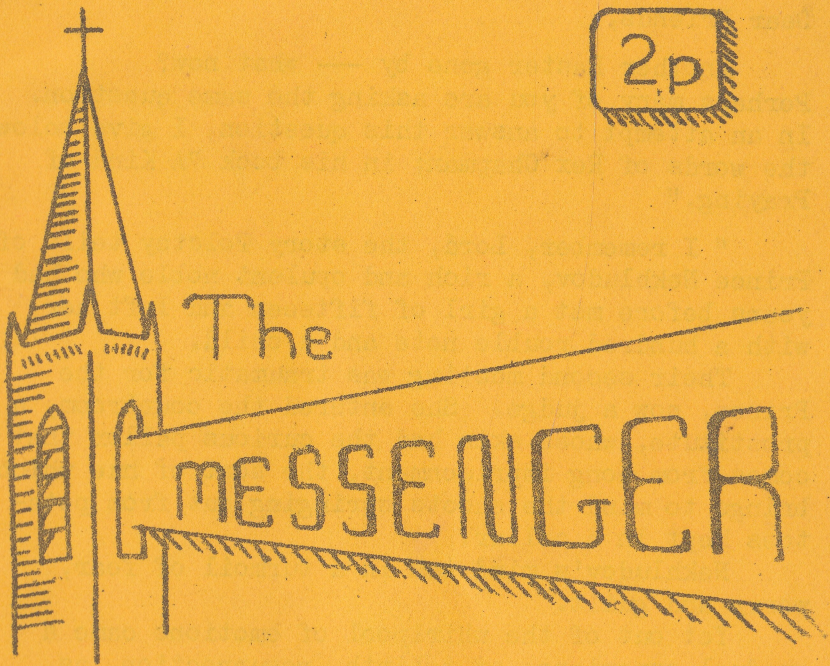

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

May 1973

Dear Friends,

Another Easter gone by --- what now? Perhaps many of you are asking the same question. In an attempt to answer this question, I give below the words of Rex Chapman; in his book "A Kind of Praying."

" I remember, Lord, the story Tolstoy tells of Prince Nekhludov, a rich and opulent noble who had years before met a girl of fifteeen and left her with a hundred rouble note and a child.

Their second meeting was traumatic for the Prince, now a judge. She entered the courtroom, a prostitute, whose skin had the curious pallor that comes from long imprisonment, the sort of hue which brings to mind the shoots springing out from potatoes kept in a cellar.

Nekhludov's mind was in a turmoil of fear, worry and guilt.

Yet out of the whirlpool of emotions came a gradual experience of rebirth, resurrection, as the gospel cast it's light on his life.

A new life began for him because everything that happened to him from that time held an entirely new and different meaning for him. Only the future will show how this new chapter of his life will end.

It is a dramatic story, Lord.

Your disciples recognized an experience of a similar quality, though some were doubtful.

You took their past and challenged them to see it in a new light that remade their future.

You were with them always.

Your Spirit assured them, as it does me, of your eternal presence to the end of time.

Send us forth, Lord, in the power of your risen life.

Send us forth to live your resurrection."

Sincere Wishes,

Allan Roberts

HOLY BAPTISM

At Littleborough: On April 8th
Rev. Wm. Purvis of Bury, officiating.
JULIE and KAREN LOUISE, daughter of Peter and Linda Butterworth, 94 Church Street, Littleborough.

CHERYL DAWN, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Turner-Swift, Whalley Avenue, Littleborough.

At Milnrow: On April 8th
Mr. A. Roberts officiating.
ERICA SIAN, daughter of Fred and Denise Stothers, 17 Piethorne Close, Newhey.

on Easter Sunday, 22nd April
Rev. A.G. Burnham B.A., officiating.
MARK WILLIAM, son of Stephen and Marilyn Hughes, 11 Equitable Street, Milnrow.

Jesus said: Let the children come to me! Do not try to stop them; for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.....

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

May	6th	"Called by faith" John 1: 40 - 51
	13th	"Christians described" 1 Peter 2: 1 - 10
	20th	"Mission in six continents broad" Matthew 28: 1 - 20
	27th	"God is your brother" 1 John 4: 13 - 21

EASTER AT MILNROW

I would like to record my grateful thanks to all of you who supported by your presence the services over Eastertide. It was most encouraging to see so many of you joining in the special services.

On Palm Sunday evening the Choir's performance of 'Olivet to Calvary', a fine performance by everyone taking part, set the scene for us all at the beginning of Holy Week.

We were pleased indeed on Maundy Thursday to welcome for the first time Rev. T.P. Strachan, Minister at King Street, Oldham, U.R.C., who so ably conducted our service of Word and Sacrament.

On Good Friday morning we had the opportunity of sharing in the sorrow of the Cross.

And yet again on Easter Sunday our sadness disappeared as we celebrated at Family Worship, the real joy of Easter, as we took of the bread and wine at Our Lord's Table, enriched this year by the Sacrament of Baptism.

Our thanks to Rev. A.C. Burnham B.A., Lecturer at our Theological College, Manchester, for conducting our worship.

.............Allan Roberts

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THE MONTH OF MAY

The Month of May is bright and gay;
The flowers are in blossom and the birds
sing all day.
The trees are nice and green
and the bee is buzzing past
going very very fast.
The park is full of flowers and is bright
For many hours with the sunshine.

.......written by Judith Roberts (aged 10)

"OLIVET"

Everyone who listened to our rendering of 'Olivet to Calvary' on Palm Sunday evening, must surely have gone back to their homes with the true message of Easter ringing in their ears.

It is always refered to as Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary', but to my mind, much of the credit should go to Mr. Shapcott Wensley, who wrote and arranged the words for this beautiful cantata. They are so simply written, yet portray the scenes of the last few days of our Lord so vividly and make one feel very humble.

Mr. Tom Ashworth delighted us once again with his singing, and I always feel we are fortunate in having someone with Derek Lynch's talent in our own church.

Praise must also go to Mr. Arthur Clegg on the organ, and to the choir, who really made us 'rejoice with the multitude'; share the utter loneliness of Jesus'; 'march with the crowds to Calvary' and so through to the final victory over death with the words:-

> "While I draw this fleeting breath
> When my eyelids close in death,
> When I soar through tracks unknown,
> See Thee on Thy Judgment Throne;
> Rock of Ages, cleft for me
> Let me hide myself in Thee."

..........A.B.

.......Sincere thanks are also due to Mrs. Audrey Baines, the soprano soloist, who conducted the choir, and who so humbly left her own name out of her report.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 13th - 19th May

Help will be required for the distribution and collection of envelopes. Last year we had 30 collectors - can we make it more? - Many hands make light work!. Mr. J. Emmott and Mrs. A. Baines will be pleased to receive names of willing helpers.

WITH A SONG AND A SMILE

A large and appreciative audience attended a concert given at St. Stephen's on Saturday 7th April. The main performance was given by the ever popular Rochdale Male Voice Choir, capably supported, as on previous occasions, by Mrs. Annie Heyworth who drew upon her rich repertoire of Lancashire Dialect verse and as usual held her audience as they held themselves with laughter. There was also a charming lady soloist who sang many well known and well loved numbers. At the end of this splendid evening Mbs. E. Gillon thanked all those who had taken part.

PERUSING PERU

At the April meeting of the Womens Guild, Mrs. D. Hayhurst told us about a holiday she had had in Peru. The talk contained a good description of various events and Peruvian customs and was amply illustrated with coloured slides which were projected by a tolerated male, Mr. R. Gillon.

May's Guild meeting will take the form of a Cookery Demonstration to be given by the Gas Board.

YOU GO TO SLAVIA

Flesh coloured worms two feet long, a hydrofoil, Ron in shorts and Edith in a bikini. These were the highlights of the slides shown at St.Stephen's on Firday 31st March. The slides were taken by Ron Gillon on last year's holiday in Yugoslavia, which also included a visit to Venice. One fishing village in Yugoslavia was complete with traditional Dalmation "Supermarket" in which Ron and Edith came across two shoppers from Milnrow - doing their buying-in at "Ivan's" no doubt.

Mr. G. projected the slides and Mrs. G. projected the commentary and the Junior Church Staff projected the supper. Proceeds amounted to £5.50.

WOMEN'S PAGE

Please note the following events at St. Stephen's:

Tuesday, 8th May: COFFEE EVENING
with
SPIRELLA DEMONSTRARION
7.30 pm. Admission 10p

**

Tuesday, 15th May: SECONDS SALE
(Childrens, etc.)
7.30 pm. Admission 10p
(including light refreshments)

Tickets for both these efforts can be obtained from members of the Women's Guild.

EGG IN THE NEST

Ingredients:

1 Toast buttered
1 Egg
1 Piece of bacon
1 Small tomao

Method:

Fry the bacon and place onto the buttered toast
Cut the tomao into slices and arrange round the bacon.
Separate the yolk from the white,
Place yolk in the middle of toast and grill for about 2 min. till yolk is cooked.
Beat the white of the egg till fairly stiff, and cover the bacon, tomato and egg, and grill till brown.

GETTING TO KNOW........(9)

ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA'S FIRST PRESIDENT is Dr. Kenneth Kaunda. He was born in 1924, the youngest of eight children. His father was a teacher and one of the earliest African ministers in the country, the Rev. David Kaunda. Kenneth Kaunda went to school at Lubwa village and to Munali Secondary School, Lusaka. He became a teacher, then a farmer, then a political leader. Like many other leading Zambians, he went to a Christian school and learned that God loves all men.

Here are a few facts about his country:

AREA 290,587 square miles (over three times England Scotland, Wales together).

CAPITAL Lusaka (150,000 people).

POPULATION 4¼ million, including 70,000 Europeans and 12,000 Asians.

ZAMBIA was called Northern Rhodesia and was a British Protectorate until 1964. Then it became an independent country within the Commonwealth. Zambia lies midway between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. As it is 4000 to 6000 feet above sea level, it has a moderate climate. Heavy rains fall between December and April. June is the coldest time; the hottest time is October, when temperatures may reach 100°F. The River Zambezi is on the Southern border with the Victoria Falls at Livingstone, the most southerly point of the country.

The Copperbelt covers an area 90 miles long by 25 miles wide, and the second largest source of copper in the world, with many towns and mines, almost all started since 1930. 50,000 people work in mining. Altogether 450,000 people live in the Copperbelt.

Christians number about ¾ million, and include Anglicans, Roman Catholics and members of the United Church of Zambia (Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian). Many national leaders are Christians.

MEETING WHATEVER COMES: A Meditation

Many of us live lives that are tightly organised;
upon us all there is the pressure of a pattern
physical, mental and spiritual.
What we are likely to be doing at any time is known.
Yet, teach us, Lord, to take the happenings of
each day as they come,
and the newness in each relationship
to accept them,
to use them,
as part of our obedience.

Lord, grant us the serenity to accept what cannot
be changed,
the courage to change what can be changed,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Let me take into today the conviction that
everything that happens can be used by God.
For how readily in practice do we assume that some
situations cannot be used.

Here we accept ourselves in the completeness
of what life is for us,
what has not been given,
what has been taken away.

Then quietly and courageously accept
what life has brought us.
Pray for wisdom and grace
to use it all to God's glory
and in obedience to his will
Accept what comes, and not regret
what does not come.

This is the way of acceptance, not detachment,
We are called into life, not out of it.
Say "Yes".

.........(Prayer Fellowship Handbook 1973)

HEADS

Well done mesdames E. Crossley, M.G. Hill, A.Merrick and P. Lightfoot who proved to be such capable models in the Hat Show. This venture, on April 10th was well supported and the very welcome proceeds are to be shared between the Creche and C.C.W.M.

SHOULDERS

The Pilot Officers and Company would like to express their gratitude to those who have shouldered the responsibility of keeping Pilots flourishing in recent months. Mrs. J.Grindrod, Mrs. D. Leach and Mrs. Wall have made worthy contributions during the winter months for which we thank them. Mrs. Merrick, Mrs. Vincent and Mrs. S. Moss will continue to run the company during the summer.

KNEES

Our Father which in heaven art,
We sanctify thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
In heaven and earth the same.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And us forgive Thou so,
As we on them that us offend
Forgiveness do bestow.
Into temptation lead us not
And us from evil free,
For Thine the Kingdom, Power and Praise,
Is and shall ever be. Amen.

TOES

Are you reluctant to step the light fantastic? Sadly, our first dance for 18 months was not well supported. Undaunted we have arranged another for

SATURDAY, 12th MAY

and we do urge you to attend this one and get your creaky joints moving in the right groove again, Please try to come or else we might become disheartened and give up....that would never do..........
we need the money.......and we need the fun.....

WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Church membership is something which should not be entered into without proper consideration of all that it implies.

To become a church member is to bear open and public testimony to the fact that we are Christians. Membership carries with it certain obligations and responsibilities and calls for deep and personal devotion and unflinching loyalty to the Christian community.

This devotion and loyalty will be expressed in several ways:-

- By regular attendance at the services of the Church, where members will be built up in faith and share in the task of evangelism.
- They will be manifested in the regular acceptance of the means of grace offered in the celebration of the sacraments.
- They will be expressed in the regular attendance at church meetings where the members will accept a share, under Christ, of the responsibility for the life and work of the church.
- They will be revealed in the undertaking of work and the giving of money to support the Church.
- They will be shown in your firm testimony to Christ in your life in the world, the home, the office and workshop, on the field of sport and among your friends.

These are just some of the implications of being a church member.

.....(Contributed by a Littleborough Reader)

JESUS IS ALIVE!

Good Friday devotions were conducted by Mr. J. Lord and on Easter Day we welcomed our friends from the Norden United Reformed Church who came to share worship with us under the Leadership of Mrs. Edith Gillon.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

May 6th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
13th	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
20th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
27th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
June 3rd	Counc. I. Royle	Counc. J. Harrison

ELDERS ROTA

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	PIANIST/ORGANIST EVENING WORSHIP
May 6th	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan
13th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. C. Hey
20th	Mr. G. Whitworth	Mr. J. Emmott
27th	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. C. Hey
June 3rd	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

May 6th	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. J. Emmott
June 3rd	Miss M. Wood	Mr. K. Hey

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

May 6th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
13th	Mrs. A. Whitworth	Mrs. N. Settle
20th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
27th	Mrs. K. Reid	
June 3rd	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

'MESSENGER'- Next issue

Will contributors please remember that the next production will be a combined June/July edition, and should include events for the fist week in August.

Please ensure that the church secretary has the dates for the diary, and the editor has any relevant announcements by the 15th May.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

May 6th	Mr. B. Hill	Mr. E. Holt	
13th	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mr. J. Nairn	10.30
	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. F. Ingham	6.00
20th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. W. Barker	
27th	Mrs. A. Stott	Mr. J. Hill	
June 3rd	Mr. H. N. Hill	Mrs. B. Hartley	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

May 13th	Mr. W. Barker	Mr. J. Nairn	6.00
27th	Mr. J. Lord	Mr. F.G. Simpson	10.30

COFFEE ROTA

May 6th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mrs. S. Moss
13th	J. Hobbs	W. Spinks
20th	B. Holt	A. Merrick
27th	J. Allison	J. Law
June 3rd	K. Hill	J. Simpson

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Details on Page 3

Readers:

May 6th	Esther Bennett
13th	Elizabeth Leach
20th	Martin Law
27th	Mrs. H. Vincent
June 3rd	Mrs. P. Lightfoot

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ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

May

Tues.	1st	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild (Cookery Demo)
Sun.	6th	11.00am.	Mr. A. Cooper
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. A. Collinge (Service of Word & Sacrament)
Mon.	7th	6.30 pm.	Pilots (and each Monday)
Tues.	8th	7.30 pm.	Coffee Evening - Spirella Demo.
Wed.	9th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	13th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Mr. R. Birtwistle
Mon.	14th		CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COMMENCES
Tues.	15th	7.30 pm.	Seconds Sale (Childrens)
Sun.	20th	11.00 am.	Rev. Donald Whitehead (Shaw)
		6.00 pm.	Mr. C. Hilton
Wed.	23rd	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting at 18 Ashfield Lane.
Sun.	27th	11.00 am.	Mr. H. Pearson
		6.00 pm.	To be announced
Wed.	30th	8.00 pm.	Church Meeting

June

Sun.	3rd	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. E.M. Richardson (Service of Word & Sacrament)

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COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

May	6th	Mrs. N. Roberts
	13th	Mrs. E. Prince
	20th	Mrs. E. Starkie
	27th	Mrs. E. Busill & Mrs. L. Lord
June	3rd	Mrs. B. Webber

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LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

May

Wed.	2nd	7.45 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Thur.	3rd	7.00 pm.	Pilots
			Sorting of Jumble. Helpers wanted please.
Fri.	4th	7.00 pm.	Jumble Sale. Proceeds for: C.C.W.M. and Junior Church
Sun.	6th	10.30 am.	Mr. L.H. Sutcliffe
Tues.	8th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild. Birthday Supper
Thur.	10th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sat.	12th	7.30 pm.	Dance. 20p & 10p.
Sun.	13th	10.30 am.	Mr. D.S. Nuttall
		6.00 pm.	Mr. Pearson (Communion)
Thur.	17th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Fri.	18th		District Council Meeting
Sun.	20th	10.30 am.	Mr. H. Minton
Thur.	24th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
		8.00 pm.	Mens Fellowship A.G.M.
Sun.	27th	10.30 am.	Mr. A. Roberts (Communion)
Tues.	29th	7.45 pm.	Church Meeting
Thur.	31st	7.00 pm.	Pilots

June

Sun.	3rd	10.30 am.	Mr. Jackson
Tues.	5th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May 6th	Mrs. R. Holt
13th	Mrs. Jowett
20th	Mrs. Arthur
27th	Mrs. Macaulay
June 3rd	Mrs. Stott......

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"MESSENGER" Note! the next issue will be a combined June/July edition.

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

*

HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW:
Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory

*